

SEISDON UNION  
RURAL SANITARY AUTHORITY

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REPORT  
OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
FOR THE YEAR 1893.

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WOLVERHAMPTON:  
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PENN FIELDS, WOLVERHAMPTON,  
*29th January, 1894.*

MY LORD AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit to you my usual “Annual Report” for the year 1893. The details of the work during that period will be supplied by the Inspector.

The DEATH RATE being only 13·0 per 1,000 of the population, is the lowest but one for the last 20 years. In 1881 it stood at 12·8, and in 1889 at 13·4. The average rate for the last 20 years is 15·1, and for the last 10 years 16·2. In the years 1891 and 1892 the rates were respectively 20·9 and 19·4; the two highest rates for the last 20 years. The Influenza in the two last-mentioned years was most prevalent and fatal, and carried off many of the aged and delicate, which in a great measure accounts for the low rate of the past year, as also, the cases during the last few months being of a somewhat milder character.

#### DEATHS.

I here submit for your inspection a Table of the DEATH RATE for the last decade, viz.:—

1884	1885	1886	1887	1888	1889	1890	1891	1892	1893
16·6	16·2	15·3	16·8	15·3	13·4	15·3	20·9	19·4	13·0

#### DEATHS IN REGISTRATION DISTRICTS.

			Males.	Females.	Total.
Wombourn	...	...	36	36	72
Tettenhall	...	...	30	16	46
Kinver	...	...	23	19	42
Total		...	89	71	160

There has been a decrease of 76 in the number of deaths as compared with the year 1892, viz.:—Wombourn 37, Tettenhall 21, and Kinver 18. Of these 77 occurred above the age of 60, and 29 under one year. This shews an important decrease in both these ages.

I give here a comparative Table of ages at which death occurred during the last 10 years:—

YEARS,	At all ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 60	60 and upwards
1884	213	35	20	13	11	44	90
1885	211	40	16	11	4	50	90
1886	198	44	15	10	11	43	75
1887	221	50	14	10	12	41	94
1888	201	42	8	9	7	36	99
1889	178	30	12	9	12	36	79
1890	202	42	18	8	8	37	89
1891	254	38	21	8	11	48	128
1892	236	48	7	4	8	52	117
1893	160	29	6	6	6	36	77

Causes of Death for the last 10 years:—

Causes.			1884	1885	1886	1887	1888	1889	1890	1891	1892	1893
Small Pox ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlatina ...	...	...	2	3	1	1	...	...	6	1	1	...
Diphtheria...	...	...	4	4	3	4	1	3	...	...	1	...
Membranous Croup	...	...	1	1	1	2	...	...	1	...	...	...
Fevers {	Typhus	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
	Enteric	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	1	1	2	...
	Continued	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Relapsing	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Puerperal	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Cholera ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas ...	...	...	...	3	1	...	3	...	2	...	1	...
Measles ...	...	...	1	...	4	6	...	1	2	9	...	...
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	2	1	2	3	...	1	11	4	...
Diarrhœa and Dysentery.	...	...	5	4	4	6	3	3	7	3	4	12
Rheumatic Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	1	...	...
Ague ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Phthisis ...	...	...	17	13	16	18	5	9	12	17	8	9
Bronchitis, Pneumonia, } and Pleurisy ... }	...	...	42	57	31	42	46	36	53	47	73	32
Heart Disease ...	...	...	15	20	14	18	11	22	17	28	17	12
Injuries ...	...	...	...	5	9	6	4	10	4	1	7	9
All other Diseases	...	...	126	97	113	116	123	94	95	135	117	86
Totals ...	...	...	213	211	198	221	201	178	202	254	236	160

## BIRTHS.

These shew a decrease of 26.

	Wombourn.	Tettenhall,	Kinver.
Males ...	103	38	41
Females ...	74	39	35
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	177	77	76
			Total, 330
			<hr/>

In the Wombourn district the Births shew a decline of 8, Tettenhall 15, and Kinver 3, making a total of 26 decrease.

The excess of Births over Deaths is 170, as compared with 120 for 1892. The Births in 1892 exceeded those of 1893 by 26, and the Deaths by 76 in the latter year.

ZYMOTIC DISEASES. These diseases have increased from 35 in 1892 to 44 in 1893 ; the increase depending mainly on the prevalence of Scarlet Fever.

TYPHOID FEVER. We have had only one case from this disease, in the place of six in the preceding year. It occurred in a clerk in a Wolverhampton merchant's office, living at Penn. The house was supplied with water from the Waterworks, and there was nothing unsatisfactory about the house. He had a singular dread of this disease, which he no doubt contracted out of the district.

SCARLET FEVER. Thirty-three cases of this disease occurred in the course of the year, against 20 in 1892. These cases were mostly isolated ones, occurring in 21 houses, and in different localities. Only one case was sent to the Cottage Hospital. Many were properly isolated in their own homes, as confirmed by the disease not spreading. In the others there were sufficient reasons for their non-removal. Where some of them contracted the disease could not be proved, others could be traced to importation.



**DIPHTHERIA.** Only one case of this disease was notified. It was imported from a neighbouring district. The patient, a servant girl, whose parents lived at Penn, was sent home, ill with the disease, from her situation. She recovered.

**ERYSIPELAS.** An unusual number of this disease has been reported; none of a serious character. They were all isolated cases, some after injuries, depending on a low state of the system. All recovered.

**SMALL POX.** Happily, I have no case to report, although it has been close to us, and a very serious epidemic has raged within a few miles of us, and which has not yet subsided.

**MEASLES.** There were in the Spring Epidemics of a mild character of this disease in the villages of Swindon, Enville, and Bobbington. The Schools were closed for a short time, the attendance of the Schools being materially affected. All recovered.

**INFLUENZA.** Although this disease has not been so prevalent, or the cases so severe, as in the two former years, still they have, during the past two or three months, been very numerous, but none directly fatal.

I have been called upon by the Managers of the Wombourn, Pattingham, and Kinver Schools, at the instigation of the Government Inspector of Schools, to make special inspections of the Out-offices of these Schools, and to Report upon them to the proper Authorities.

**INFECTIOUS DISEASES (NOTIFICATION) ACT.** I here append the number and classification of cases notified to me under this Act for the last three years. This Act has again been very effectual, especially in the Scarlet Fever cases, as so many of them were isolated cases, any of which might have proved a centre for a wide-spread Epidemic.

## CASES NOTIFIED.

	Scarlet Fever.	Erysi- pelas.	Diph- theria.	Typhoid.	Typhus.	Small Pox.	Total.
1891	17	6	6	14	—	—	43
1892	20	5	2	6	1	1	35
1893	33	9	1	1	—	—	44
							<hr/> 122 <hr/>

POPULATION. At the censns of 1891 the popula-  
tion stood at 12,137. Estimated from the middle of 1893  
now amounts to 12,289, an increase of 147. Wombourn  
has increased 101, Tettenhall 50, and Kinver has diminished  
4 since the last census.

WATER SUPPLY. The general supply of the dis-  
trict is from Wells and the Wolverhampton Waterworks.  
There is still a want of a supply of wholesome water to  
Wombourn. I understand that the Bilston Commissioners  
are about to sink for Water at the Bratch, and to build a  
Pumping Station there ; thus Wombourn should shortly  
receive a sufficient supply of wholesome Water. It would be  
well if some arrangement was made with the Wolverhampton  
authorities to carry their mains to the village of Codsall, as  
I have grave suspicions that some of the Wells there are not  
satisfactory. This is a matter which requires your careful  
attention. During the year, seven samples of Water have  
been analysed by the Public Analyst, four of these were found  
to be polluted, and steps are being taken to obtain a whole-  
some supply of Water. The remaining three samples were  
certified to be safe for drinking purposes.

DRAINAGE. I would again direct your attention to  
the want of a proper system of Sewerage in some parts of  
the District, especially in the villages of Codsall and Kinver.  
Respecting “Codsall,” levels have been taken, and plans  
submitted to you, of which you approved ; but, unfortunately,  
the owners of the land upon which it was proposed to

discharge the sewage, refused their consent to allow you to do this. The only course now open appears to be to put the Compulsory Clauses of the Public Health Act in force. As to "Kinver," I would suggest that levels be taken and plans submitted to illustrate how the sewage may be effectually dealt with there, as sooner or later this matter will have to be attended to. In the parish of Penn 433 yards of sewer pipes have been laid, which has greatly facilitated the dealing with the sewage there. At "Wombourn," 50 yards of sewer have been repaired, and 18 yards of sewer pipes laid, and a Ventilator provided, which has abated a nuisance frequently complained of.

SUMMONSES. But one occasion has arisen this year where it was necessary to take legal proceedings, being against a youth for damaging the above-mentioned Ventilator, at Wombourn, by throwing stones at it. He was fined by the Magistrates.

COTTAGE HOSPITAL. This building has only been occupied by one patient, a youth of 17. Had there been accommodation for separating the sexes, a young girl would have been sent in at the same time. On this subject I must bring urgently to your notice the necessity of increased accommodation. I consider we have been most fortunate this year in dealing so well with the number of notified cases of Scarlet Fever, but we must not reckon too much upon the future. Had Small Pox visited us, to what straights should we have been put. The present situation, also, of our Hospital is not the best; the Wombourn district would be far preferable, being more central. The case I have mentioned was removed from Pattingham to Kinver, a distance, I presume, of not less than 13 miles, and one too far, but for the mildest form of Infectious Disease.



BYE-LAWS. We have frequent complaints from the Parishes of Penn and Kinver, of the removal of Night Soil in broad daylight, but have no power to cope with this nuisance, or, indeed, with the building of new houses, which appears to me of no small importance.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS, CANAL BOATS, AND  
BAKEHOUSES ACTS. The usual Inspections under these Acts have been made. I have nothing special to report.

I am,

My Lord and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

WILLIAM SPACKMAN, M.D.,

*Medical Officer of Health.*

*To the Seisdon Union*

*Rural Sanitary Authority.*

## SUMMARY OF NUISANCES ABATED DURING THE YEAR 1893.

No. of Houses Inspected	...	...	...	388
No. of Notices on hand December 31st, 1892	...			5
No. of Notices Served	...	...	...	150
Complied with	...	...	...	150
Leaving on the Books 31st December, 1893	...			5
Letters written relative to Nuisances	...	...		72
Bakehouses Inspected	...	...	...	7
Slaughter-houses Inspected	...	...	...	13
Cow Sheds and Milk Shops Inspected	...	...	...	68
Canal Boats Inspected	...	...	...	95
				<hr/>
Houses Closed, unfit for Habitation	...	...		5
Repaired, &c.	...	...	...	14
Limewashed	...	...	...	40
Through Ventilation provided	...	...	...	—
Disinfection	...	...	...	29
Overcrowding abated	...	...	...	2
Yards Paved	...	...	...	3
Water Closets Repaired and Ventilated	...	...		13
Filthy Houses and Washhouses Repaired & Cleansed				6
Privies Removed and Reconstructed	...	...		25
„    Emptied and Cleansed	...	...	...	115
Ashpits Repaired	...	...	...	18
Ashpits built to Privies	...	...	...	2
Privies Repaired	...	...	...	6
Doors and Spouting Provided	...	...	...	1
Pan System Adopted	...	...	...	18
Privies Limewashed	...	...	...	19
Cellars Drained	...	...	...	4
433 yards of Sewering laid in Parish of Penn	...			—
18 yards 6 inches Drain and 50 yards Repairs in the Parish of Wombourn	...	...	...	—
Carried forward				<hr/>
	...	...		320

Brought forward	...	...	320
1 Ventilator to Sewer in the Parish of Wombourn			—
Drains laid to Houses	...	...	44
„ Repaired	...	...	31
„ Trapped	...	...	46
Cesspits Constructed	...	...	6
Cesspools Emptied	...	...	13
Foul Cesspools filled up	...	...	13
Ditches Cleansed	...	...	2
Cowsheds Limewashed	...	...	15
Pigsties Removed	...	...	11
„ Drained	...	...	3
Ceased Keeping Swine	...	...	—
Catchpits built to Piggeries	...	...	3
Foul Pigwash Removed	...	...	14
Manure and other Filth Removed	...	...	35
Fowls Removed	...	...	2
Water Supply—Pumps Repaired	...	...	6
Wells Sunk	...	...	6
Tap Water laid on to Houses	...	...	2
Wells Cleansed	...	...	9
Cisterns Cleansed	...	...	1
Pumps put to Wells	...	...	3
Wells Covered, Repaired, Paved, and Channelled	...	...	10
Water Analysed—Wholesome	...	...	3
„ „ Polluted	...	...	4
Wells Closed	...	...	—
Other Nuisances	...	...	—
Persons Summoned before the Magistrates	...	...	1
Total	...	...	603

Table of POPULATION, BIRTHS, and of NEW CASES OF INFECTIOUS SICKNESS, coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health, during the year 1893, in the Rural Sanitary District of Seisdon, classified according to Diseases, Ages and Localities.

Registration Districts.	Population at all ages.		Registered Births.	Aged under 5 or over 5	New Cases of Sickness in each Locality, coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health.									
	Census 1891	Estimated to middle of 1893			FEVERS									
					Smallpox	Scarlatina	Diphtheria	Membranous Croup	Typhus	Enteric or Typhoid	Continued	Relapsing	Puerperal	Cholera
WOMBURN	..	5717	5841	177	Under 5 ..... 5 upwds.	2 ..... 14	.. ..... 1	.. ..... ..	.. ..... ..	.. ..... 1	.. ..... ..	.. ..... ..	.. ..... ..	.. ..... 9
TETTENHALL	...	3255	3305	77	Under 5 ..... 5 upwds.	4 ..... 9	.. ..... ..	.. ..... ..	.. ..... ..	.. ..... ..	.. ..... ..	.. ..... ..	.. ..... ..	.. ..... ..
*KINVER	..	3165	3143	76	Under 5 ..... 5 upwds.	.. ..... 4	.. ..... ..	.. ..... ..	.. ..... ..	.. ..... ..	.. ..... ..	.. ..... ..	.. ..... ..	.. ..... ..
Totals	...	12137	12289	330	Under 5 ..... 5 upwds.	6 ..... 27	.. ..... 1	.. ..... ..	.. ..... ..	.. ..... 1	.. ..... ..	.. ..... ..	.. ..... ..	.. ..... 9

\* ONE case of Scarlet Fever was removed from the Parish of Pattingham to the "Cottage Hospital," Kinver.



Table of DEATHS during the Year 1893, in the Rural Sanitary District of Seisdon, classified according to Diseases, Ages and Localities.

Registration Districts	Mortality from all causes, at subjoined ages.							Under 5 ..... 5 upwds.	Mortality from subjoined causes, distinguishing Deaths of Children under 5 Years of age.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																
	At all ages	Under 1 year	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and upwds.		FEVERS.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																
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*WOMBOURN	72	19	2	1	2	16	31	Under 5 ..... 5 upwds.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...</

\* Trysull Workhouse Infirmary, 7 cases [included in the Wombourn District.]

